



Community Code Enforcement

Alley Lighting

The street lighting systems in the City of Long Beach were typically installed with the original development of neighborhoods at the expense of the developer or through assessment district financing. Alley lighting systems were not required.

Dimly lit alleys can cause problems for residents and the police, and also increase illegal loitering and criminal activity on or around your property. While the City does not provide alley lighting, there are several options available to increase light levels in alleys.

1. Customer-Owned and Maintained Lighting

Probably the most economical long-term option is customer-owned lighting installed on your own building/residence. Lighting controlled via motion sensor saves money by using light only when it is required and can serve as a deterrent for illegal alley activity.

For a small number of lights, you can usually add the fixtures by utilizing your existing electrical system and realize only a very small increase on your monthly electric bill. For a large number of lights, Southern California Edison (SCE) offers a reduced outdoor lighting rate (AL-1/AL-2) for separately metered lighting systems controlled for dusk to dawn operation.

2. Utility-Owned and Maintained Lighting

SCE may be able to install light fixtures on existing SCE utility poles in alleys. Installation is subject to field conditions meeting certain requirements specified in the applicable streetlight tariff.

If installation of a streetlight in the alley is feasible, SCE requires the following:

- Minimum three (3) year contract
- Advance payment for approximately one (1) year of services
- Absolving Agreement (which allows SCE to suspend service based on reported problems with the lighting)

If you would like more information about these alley lighting options, please contact the Edison Service Planning Department at (562) 981-8237 and ask to speak with the Service Planner who works with your Long Beach neighborhood.

3. Neighborhood-Owned and Maintained Lighting

The City of Long Beach will work with neighborhood groups who wish to pay for a new lighting system by assessment. This option, which is the most expensive method of providing new lighting, requires the approval of over 50% of the property owners in the proposed lighting district. New system and annual lighting costs are assessed to the property owners and paid along with County property taxes. For further information, please contact Sue Castillo, City of Long Beach Construction Services Bureau, at (562) 570-6996.